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L E T T E R

TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

H E N R Y D U N D A S, *K*

ONE OF HIS MAJESTY'S MOST HONOURABLE PRIVY COUNCIL, *1<sup>st</sup> Viscount Melville*

TREASURER OF HIS MAJESTY'S NAVY,

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF CONTROL FOR THE AFFAIRS OF INDIA,

DEAN OF THE FACULTY OF ADVOCATES,

KEEPER OF HIS MAJESTY'S SIGNET FOR SCOTLAND,

AND

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR THE COUNTY OF EDINBURGH;

ON THE

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

IN THE

CITY OF EDINBURGH,

AND ON THE MEANS OF ACCOMPLISHING THEM.

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EDINBURGH:

PRINTED BY D. WILLISON.

M,DCC,LXXXV.

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ONE OF HIS MAJESTY'S MOST HONOURABLE PRIVY COUNCIL,

TREASURER OF HIS MAJESTY'S NAVY,

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF CONTROL FOR THE ARMS OF INDIA,

DEAN OF THE FACULTY OF ADVOCATES,

CLERK OF HIS MAJESTY'S SECRET FOR SCOTLAND,

AND

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR THE COUNTY OF EDINBURGH.



PROPOSED

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CITY OF EDINBURGH

AND ON THE MEANS OF ACCOMPLISHING THEM

EDINBURGH:

PRINTED BY J. WILKINSON

1847

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*S I R,*

**A**S You are no stranger to the present state, and the proposed improvements of your native City, You do not need to be told, that, though some of these improvements, by the activity of the Magistrates, the good-will of the people, and the sanction of Government, are already carrying on with vigour; and though there is every reason to expect, that, by the same means, most of the others may in due time be accomplished;—yet some of the most necessary of them are of such a nature, that they can never be executed, without the assistance, as well as the authority of Government. But perhaps it may not be needless to tell You, that your station in public life, and the influence which your talents and good conduct have procured You in the Senate of your country, and in the Councils of your Sovereign, and the confidence which your fellow-citizens have in your public spirit, point You out to them, as one who may most effectually



ally further such an application to the British Parliament, as they find it necessary to make on the present occasion.

To You therefore, Sir, this letter is addressed, in the name of many of the principal Citizens of Edinburgh, as to one, who, they trust, has both the power and the will to serve his country.—Assured of the zeal and activity of their Magistrates,—confiding in the faithful services of the Representative of this City,—persuaded that their request is far from unreasonable, and that it will be honourable to those who grant, as well as to those who make it, and convinced that it never can be regarded as a matter of party, or of private interest,—they hope it will be listened to, not merely with candour, but with favour. Yet, amidst the occupation of so many more important concerns, which constantly engage the attention of Parliament, they fear that theirs may be little attended to: They have reason to apprehend, that objects of very real importance, and highly interesting to them, may be little understood or regarded by their Rulers, from whose view they are far removed: And they know full well, that misapprehensions and prejudices may be entertained, with respect to such undertakings as they have at present in view, sufficient to frustrate the justest and wisest plans.—On You, Sir, your fellow-citizens rely, to assert their cause; to remove mistakes and prejudices, if any are entertained, with regard to it; to explain its importance; and to procure to it, for a little time, the candid attention of the British Senate.

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THE two principal objects which are at present in contemplation with a view to the improvement of the city of Edinburgh, which are eagerly wished for by many of the most active and public-spirited citizens; which cannot fail to be acceptable to all, and indeed to the country in general; and which alone require the assistance of Government, are, The rebuilding of the College, and the erecting of a proper Prison and Bridewell.

EVERY stranger, whom curiosity or accident has led to our City, must have remarked the mean and unworthy appearance of the buildings allotted to our University. While the University itself is the boast of our City and of our Country, the buildings belonging to it are a disgrace to both. It is common for those who feel for the credit of the University, of the City, and of the country, to dissuade strangers from going to visit the buildings of the College; not merely as not deserving to be seen, but as being likely to inspire sentiments very mortifying to the honest pride of every good citizen. But You, Sir, who received your education in our University, and there imbibed the first rudiments of those valuable attainments which have made You what You now are, must know perfectly, that, independently of the poor and ruinous appearance of the buildings of the College, they are really insufficient for the accommodation of the Professors and of the Students, who actually experience, every year, many inconveniences, from this very circumstance.

IN England, where the seats of learning are adorned with a magnificence unparalleled in any other country, and endowed with

with a liberality that knows no bounds, it will appear wonderful, and hardly credible, that any university, but especially one that has long been in a very flourishing state, should experience such inconveniencies as ours at present complains of. But such wonder and incredulity will cease, when it is known, that the University of Edinburgh, though it has subsisted now above two hundred years, neither has, nor ever had any permanent property, or any fixed income that it could call its own; for every thing which, in any sense, it can be said to possess, is, by the original donation of it, absolutely appropriated, and allotted either for salaries to the Principal, and certain of the Professors, (for these have not all salaries), or else for bursaries or exhibitions intended for the support of a certain number of students; and that the University has not even any occasional funds at all adequate to the keeping in repair, not to say the erecting of such buildings as are required. Even the buildings which the University occupies at this day, are all of them the property of the City: Many of them have been built at the City's expence; and all of them are kept—it can scarce be said in repair, for that is impossible,—but from falling down, by very small, but almost annual grants from the public stock of the City.

NAY, however strange it may appear, it is most certainly true, that some of the inconveniencies most felt and complained of by the members of the University, proceed chiefly or solely from the very flourishing state of it. Buildings that were sufficient, if not for the decent and comfortable accommodation, at least for



for the reception of the Professors and of their Students a century ago, cannot be sufficient for their reception now ; for this plain reason, that the number of the Professors has been doubled, and that of the Students increased more than four fold, in the course of the last hundred years. The number of the Students still continues to increase ; nor is it by any means improbable, that the number of the Professors may gradually be increased likewise.

THE citizens of Edinburgh, convinced that their city derives not only much honour, but many solid advantages from the prosperous condition of their University, are desirous that the Members of it should be properly accommodated, at least for the purposes of communicating and of receiving instruction. You, Sir, cannot fail to join in the general wish of all your countrymen, not merely as a good citizen, willing to promote every measure of public utility, but as having yourself enjoyed the benefit of that liberal plan of education, and those ample opportunities of improvement, which the University of Edinburgh affords : And we trust, that, mindful of the youthful, but solemn and rational engagement of every dutiful son to his *Alma Mater*, "*Per reliquam vitam Academiam ipsam grato et benevolo animo prosecuturum, idque omnibus officiis pro facultate mea et occasione data restaturum,*" you will rejoice in the opportunity which now presents itself, of rendering her the most essential service.

BUT, reasonable and necessary as such an undertaking as that of rebuilding the College must appear to every candid and liberal-

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mindful person, it is very evident, that the expence required to accomplish it, must be far beyond the means even of the city of Edinburgh; for those of the University itself, are altogether out of the question.

THIS will appear, from the slightest consideration of the extent of the buildings of various kinds that will be indispensibly necessary in a new College, and of the expence of such buildings, even on the most moderate calculation, and without aiming at magnificence, or any useless ornament.

As it cannot be doubted that the University will be consulted with respect to any plan that may be proposed for rebuilding the College, the most accurate information concerning the accommodations that are needed, will be obtained from the Principal and the Professors, who are the only persons that can properly judge of such points, before any plan for a new College is formed. The suggestions relating to it which are here offered, proceed merely on such facts as are well known to most of the inhabitants of Edinburgh, especially to such as are acquainted with any members of the University, and may be known to all who will take the trouble to enquire into the history and the present state of it.

THE University of Edinburgh, from its first institution, has always been on so different an establishment from those of Oxford and Cambridge, or even from most of those in our own country, that



that some articles of building, which might be thought indispensibly necessary for a College, and which would be the most expensive in a great one, are scarce thought of at all in the College of Edinburgh. There never were in it but a very inadequate number of chambers or rooms for the Students to dwell in; and, for many years past, there have been none, it having been found necessary to employ the few that there were, for other more important and public purposes: nor had the College of Edinburgh ever a great hall, with public tables, for the convenience of the Students. Such accommodations, however desirable, are by no means looked for in a new College: indeed it would be in the highest degree unreasonable, to suppose that such accommodations could be obtained for a body of more than a thousand Students: and they are the less required or thought of in Edinburgh College, that the Students live promiscuously with the other inhabitants of the City, and are not even distinguished from them by any peculiar Academical habit.

THE University of Edinburgh has no proper Chapel or Chaplain of its own; but the members of it have, from time immemorial, been accommodated with a gallery allotted for their use in Lady Yester's Church, which is almost adjoining to the College. In a plan for rebuilding the College, this circumstance will, no doubt, be considered, and the want will of course be supplied.

IN a new College, there should be one great hall, to serve the purpose of an Academical Theatre, where Graduations, and other

other public exercises and ceremonies, may be conducted in a proper manner. As few as possible of these ceremonies are now retained in the University of Edinburgh; but they cannot altogether be laid aside, as they certainly have their use. At any rate, one general place of meeting for the University must be needed. It will be considered, probably, whether this general place of meeting may not be open at all Academical hours, for the Students to assemble and walk in it, just before the meeting of the several classes which they attend. Such a convenience seems to be needed in a climate like ours, where, to wait in the open air but a few minutes, in the winter season especially, must often be very disagreeable, and sometimes not altogether safe.—As the number of Students at the University, at present, is about a thousand, and still increasing, it may easily be judged what should be the dimensions of such a public hall, even putting out of the question the accommodation of spectators at Academical ceremonies.

AMPLE space must be allotted in a new College for the Library; that is, not merely enough to contain such a collection of books as the University is at present possessed of, but a great deal more. From the time of the institution of the University, till the year 1760, a period of about 180 years, the Library had been increasing constantly, though slowly; and, by that time, had come to be a very great collection. But, since that time, and during the wise and prosperous administration of the present worthy Principal, Doctor Robertson, who, sensible of the importance



portance of it, made it his study to put it on the footing the most useful to the Students, and the most favourable to its own increase, it has advanced much more rapidly. Every Student belonging to the University has the fullest use of the Library, in consideration of a trifling contribution paid annually at the time of matriculation; by which, and other means sagaciously devised, and faithfully applied, an annual fund of above 150 l. has been obtained, and employed for the purchase of books: so that in the space of twenty-five years, near 4000 l. has been laid out in purchasing books for the University Library. As it receives likewise, of course, all books that are entered in Stationer's Hall according to act of Parliament, and as many books are occasionally given to it in the way of donation, it can scarce be thought to increase at a less rate than 200 l. in value, or 600 or 700 volumes annually. Hence some judgment may be formed of what it will come to in fifty or in an hundred years, and of the necessity of providing space for its gradual increase, in any plan for rebuilding the College. In a few years after it was put on the present establishment, the Library had increased so much, that the hall originally allotted for it, though a very spacious one, was found insufficient for that purpose, and other apartments were added to it; but even these must soon be insufficient to contain a collection of books that is increasing so fast.

IN allotting sufficient space for the Library in any plan of a new College, it will, no doubt, be thought proper, for various reasons, to have one large and handsome room in it. But it

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will probably be considered, that, independently of the necessary regard to economy, a long range of apartments is much better adapted for the purpose of a library, than one or two great halls, both by affording more surface for placing the books, and by being in some measure subservient to the arrangement of them.

In rebuilding the College, care must be taken to allot sufficient space for the Museum; which may be considered, at present, as in its infancy; but it, too, like the Library, is put on such a footing, that it cannot fail to increase very fast. The prevailing taste for Natural History, and the well-known zeal and activity of the present Professor of this branch of Science, would alone be sufficient to insure the increase of the Museum. But the late establishment of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, affords additional and permanent assurance of the same important object; for, by the fundamental constitution of this society, every thing relating to Natural History that is acquired by it, and, indeed, every thing fit for a Museum, excepting only Antiquities, which go to the great collection in the Advocates Library, must be deposited in the Museum of the University. And the good effect of this very judicious arrangement has already, even in the short space of two years, been very sensibly felt by the Museum, which is now increasing fast.

THERE will be required, as a common Faculty-room, and as a daily place of meeting for the Professors, during the season of teaching, an apartment, consisting of one good room and an anti-chamber.

BUT



BUT the principal buildings required for public and common use, will be, the Chapel, the Great Hall or Theatre, the Library, and the Museum. It is evident, too, that these must all be separate and independent of one another; and that the same place cannot serve for more than one of these purposes:—Thus, a place fitted up for a Public Hall, can never answer for a Library; and one fitted up for the reception of books, can never answer, either for a Museum, or as a Public Hall.

IT has been thought by some, that the Royal Society of Edinburgh, being, by its institution, so intimately connected with the University, and likely, in due time, to be of such essential service to it, ought to have a proper apartment in a new College, as the Royal Society of London has in the new buildings at Somerset House. But as it is understood now, that the Royal Society of Edinburgh has it in contemplation, to build for itself a proper Hall, in a part of the City still nearer to the centre of it than the College is, and therefore more convenient for its purpose, it is possible that the Society will have no occasion for an apartment in the College.

BUT the chief article of building, and consequently of expence, in the proposed plan of a New College, must be, the providing of a sufficient number of large and commodious teaching-rooms for the several Professors; the want of which, or the smallness and badness of many of those which they have at present, is necessarily attended with many inconveniences, both to the Professors and to their pupils.

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In order to form some notion of what will be needed in this way, it must be observed, that the number of Professorships is at present twenty-three, including the Clinical Professorship.—They are,

1. HUMANITY OF LATIN.
2. GREEK.
3. MATHEMATICS.
4. LOGIC, or, FIRST PHILOSOPHY.
5. NATURAL PHILOSOPHY.
6. MORAL PHILOSOPHY.
7. NATURAL HISTORY.
8. UNIVERSAL HISTORY and ANTIQUITIES.
9. RHETORIC and BELLES LETTRES.
10. DIVINITY.
11. CHURCH HISTORY.
12. HEBREW and ORIENTAL LANGUAGES.
13. CIVIL LAW.
14. SCOTS LAW.
15. PUBLIC LAW, and LAW OF NATURE AND NATIONS.
16. ANATOMY and SURGERY.
17. CHEMISTRY.
18. BOTANY.
19. MATERIA MEDICA.
20. THEORY of PHYSIC.
21. PRACTICE of PHYSIC.
22. MIDWIFERY.
23. CLINICAL LECTURES.

Now,



Now, of all these branches of science, Botany alone is taught (as from the nature of the subject it ever must be) in Summer. It alone, too, is taught without the walls of the College; the Professor and his pupils being, by his Majesty's royal munificence, provided, in the most complete manner, with every desirable accommodation, in the Botanic Garden.

ALL the rest are taught in the Winter-season, and within the walls of the College; and, for the accommodation of the Professors and Students of these different branches of science, there must be required at least an equal number of halls, or schools, for teaching in. It may be thought a smaller number might accommodate them all, as they must necessarily meet at different hours. This is actually the case at present: The consequence of which is, that sometimes three or four different classes must meet in the same place, at different hours of the same day; a circumstance attended with much inconvenience, especially when one of them assembles at the very hour when the other is dismissed. To wait, perhaps in the open air, till admittance can be obtained into the place of teaching, by the dismissal of those who occupied it before, and then to sit an hour in a room, where from 100 to 200 people had been sitting during the preceding hour, must ever be inconsistent with comfort, and unfavourable to health.—It is to be hoped, therefore, that such inconveniences will be effectually guarded against, in any plan for rebuilding the College; especially as any saving, in point of expence, that could be accomplished by such a piece of economy, must be

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very inconsiderable: for all the largest, and, of course, most expensive halls, will be indispensibly needed at any rate.

It must be observed too, that, though there are but about one and twenty Professors who teach in Edinburgh College during the Winter season, yet there are more than that number of classes taught by the Professors, many of whom teach two, and some even three classes, according to the nature of their respective sciences, and the different standing and degrees of proficiency of their pupils. This is the case, at present, with the Professors of Latin, of Greek, of Oriental Languages, of Logic, of Mathematics, and of Civil Law. It is known, that some of the other Professors have it in contemplation to increase the number of their classes by a similar kind of division.

BESIDES this, it must be considered, that some of the Classes meet more than one hour every day; and that many of the Professors who commonly teach but one hour daily, find it necessary, occasionally, and especially towards the end of the season, to teach two or three hours every day.

AND lastly, it must not be forgotten, that it is at least possible, and perhaps not very improbable, that even the number of Professorships may hereafter be increased\*.

\* It appears, from a recent instance, that this is not a groundless speculation: for, since this letter was written, a new Regius Professorship has been established, namely, that of Astronomy.



ALL these things being duly considered, it cannot surely be thought superfluous or unreasonable, to have, in a new College, at least as many halls for teaching in, as there are Professors at present established.

THESE halls must necessarily be of very different dimensions, and very differently constructed. Thus, while in many of them it is sufficient that there be space to contain the Students with ease, and accommodation for them to write, or take notes, from the lectures of the Professors, it is necessary that others of them be fitted up somewhat in the manner of a Theatre, in order that the Students may see, as well as hear, and write if they choose. This is especially required for the classes of Natural History, Natural Philosophy, Chemistry, and Anatomy.

It is obvious likewise, that for the purpose of some of these classes, there must be required, besides the great hall for the Professor to teach in, several other apartments. Thus, the Divinity Class should be accommodated with a proper place for the Theological Library, which is distinct from the general library of the College. The Professor of Natural Philosophy must have at least one or two rooms, and these none of the smallest, to contain his apparatus for Experimental Philosophy. The Professor of Chemistry must have the same kind of accommodation for his chemical preparations and specimens; it being understood, that his teaching-room serves likewise for his laboratory. The Professor of Anatomy must require still more ample accommodation in the same way; one or more large rooms for containing his great and daily

daily increasing collection of anatomical preparations, another place for making such preparations, and some others for various very necessary purposes.

MANY of the teaching-rooms should be of such dimensions as to accommodate between two hundred and three hundred Students; some of them must be still larger: The Chemical Theatre should be capable of accommodating at least three hundred Students; the Anatomical Theatre should be fit to contain at least five hundred, or more properly six hundred.

THE mention of such numbers will, no doubt, to those who are unacquainted with the present state of the University of Edinburgh, appear somewhat extravagant; but those who are acquainted with it, will know that it is by no means unreasonable. There have actually been, at several of the classes, more than two hundred Students. The Professor of Anatomy has commonly had, for some years past, about four hundred Students in his class, and one year very lately he had near four hundred and fifty.

It is a fact well known to the Magistrates of Edinburgh, that, within these twenty years, and chiefly within these ten years, most of the Professors in the University have been obliged to apply to them, and some of them even repeatedly, to have their teaching-rooms enlarged, or new ones fitted up for them, that might contain their Students. This has been done for the Professors of Humanity, Greek, Logic, Mathematics, Natural Philosophy,



lofophy, Moral Philofophy, and for the feveral Profeffors of the Medical branch.

It is but about twenty-five years fince the prefent Anatomical Theatre was built: and, at that time, it was thought to be of fuch dimenfions, that it was impoffible it fhould ever be filled with Students. Yet, in ten or twelve years, it was found that it could not accommodate the number of Students who flocked to it; and means were found to make an addition to the number of feats in it, as, from the nature of the building, it could not be enlarged. Even with this additional convenience, it was foon found infufficient for the reception of the Students; and, within thefe three years, farther additions to it, of the fame kind, were contrived, which, after all, are hardly fufficient.

SOME years ago, the place allotted for the Profeffor of Chemistry was found abfolutely infufficient to contain his Students; and he was accommodated for fome time in the Mufeum, till a new Laboratory could be built for him. But even this new Laboratory, though made to contain two hundred with eafe, which was a much greater number than had ever been at that clafs before, within three years was found infufficient to contain the Students of Chemistry; and it became neceffary to erect an additional gallery to it, and to crowd more benches into it.

MUCH about the fame time, the Profeffor of the Praëlice of Phyfic experienced an almoft ridiculous, but very real diftreff, from the fame caufe. He had long occupied the largeft apart-

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ment (except the Anatomical Theatre) in the College, which, by various contrivances, had been made capable of containing two hundred Students: but it could not hold his class; and, as he and his Students could not (for very obvious reasons) be admitted either into the Chemical Laboratory, or the Anatomical Theatre, he was obliged to seek for accommodation in some place without the walls of the College; and, after trying one or two different places, at last got admittance into the public hall of the newly built High School, and was permitted to teach there for a whole Winter.

WHEN such inconveniences and vexations have already and repeatedly been experienced by the University from the smallness of the teaching-rooms, it cannot surely be thought unreasonable to expect, that, in a plan for rebuilding the College, space should be allowed for this purpose, somewhat more than barely sufficient to accommodate the present numbers of Students. No inconvenience can arise from the rooms allotted for teaching being larger, but the greatest from their being smaller than is absolutely necessary; and the difference, in point of expence, between rebuilding them on such a scale as would be but barely sufficient, and doing it on a more liberal plan, and with a view to the continuance and increase of the prosperity of the University, would be too inconsiderable to merit attention in such an undertaking. Nor must it be thought, that it is the Medical Classes alone that will require such ample space, or that the prosperity of the University has been confined, or is likely to be confined to that branch alone. It will never surely be thought, that many other  
branches



branches of science and education are of less importance than Medicine: nor can it reasonably be doubted, that for these branches too, Professors may be found, or actually have been found, of talents and activity not inferior to those of the men who, in the space of sixty years, have raised the Medical School from nothing to its present very flourishing state: for the classes of general science have uniformly been growing more numerous for many years past, and especially during the last ten years; and this, too, it must be observed, in a state of public affairs, during which the studies and the arts of peace are least of all attended to; amidst the calamities and the distractions of general and of civil war.

On the whole, it must be evident, that, besides the greater public buildings required in a new College, there will be needed, merely for the purpose of teaching such a number of classes as are taught in the University of Edinburgh, at least thirty rooms of various dimensions. A few of these, such as the Chemical and Anatomical Theatres, must be of an extraordinary size: several others should be rooms of the size of forty by thirty feet; but many of them need not be above half this size. Allowing two feet square for each person, a room of forty feet by thirty, will accommodate between two hundred and three hundred persons, after making the necessary deductions for alleys, for the place of the Professor's station, and of the fire or stove; it being understood always, that all these rooms must be built of such a height, and provided with windows of such a construction, as to afford abundance of good air. But it must be the study of an Architect to consider what proportions and arrangements of the several teaching-

teaching-rooms will be most consistent with the great objects of convenience and of economy.

BESIDES these two classes of buildings, to wit, for the general use of the University at large, and for the accommodating of the several Professors with teaching-rooms, some others will be needed; especially dwelling-houses for the Principal and some of the Professors, who, either by the original institution of their Professorships, or by prescription, have a right to this convenience. It were no doubt much to be wished, that all the Professors, or at least a considerable proportion of them, to whom it would be most peculiarly convenient and agreeable, might have houses in the College, as is the case elsewhere. But this must not be looked for in the College of Edinburgh, not only from necessary considerations of economy, but because the area belonging to the College is by far too small to admit of it. It will hardly afford more space than must be required for the buildings already enumerated, and for houses for the Principal and two or three other Professors. It is to be considered, too, that the servants of the College, the upper janitor and macer, and the under janitor, have houses in the College, and for obvious reasons ought to have them. But these cannot be supposed to be either large or expensive.

It appears, that, near twenty years ago, a Society among the Students, well known by the name of the Speculative Society, obtained permission to erect, for the purpose of its meetings, which were known and approved of by the University, a proper building



building within the walls of the College: This building having been erected accordingly, and being to this day employed for the same laudable purposes as at first by the Society, which still subsists, it would be unjust to demolish it, without accommodating the Society with as good an apartment in the new College. A single room, with an antichamber, would be sufficient for this purpose.

No better situation for a new College can be required than the site of the old. By means of the new South Bridge, it will have such easy and immediate communication with the rest of the City, that it may be regarded as near the centre of it. It is very near to the Royal Infirmary, which is an object of no small moment to the Medical Branch of the University. It is in the neighbourhood of several streets, where the Students always may be, as, in fact, for many years past they have been, accommodated with lodgings, more comfortably, and better on the whole, than they could have been in College rooms.

As so large a pile as a new College cannot be built all at once, it is conceived that part of the old may be occupied, and the Classes be taught in it as at present, till part of the new be fit for the reception of the Professors and their Students.

THE area of the College extends about four hundred and thirty feet from east to west, and about two hundred and thirty from north to south. Such an area, it is hoped, will afford space enough for all the buildings that are absolutely necessary in a new

College. But even for the contrivance of this, and still more for arranging the different parts of it, with a view to convenience, economy, proportion and beauty, the judgment and taste of a professed Architect must be required; and it would be great presumption for those who are not architects to offer their opinions, or any suggestions on such points.

THE east wing of the proposed new College will extend two hundred and thirty feet along the west side of the approach to the South Bridge which is at present building; and it will form one of the principal ornaments of this new and magnificent access to the City.

AMONG the other plans for this Bridge, and the access connected with it, we were much gratified lately, with the sight of a plan and elevation of the east wing of a new College, designed by Mr. Robert Adam, and would, no doubt, be much more gratified, were we favoured with a complete plan of a new College, from the same masterly hand.

A GOOD Architect, when informed of the number, and extent, and nature, of the buildings that will be needed in a new College, can easily judge, and none but an architect can properly judge, whether it must be built in the form of a complete quadrangle; or whether a quadrangle will be sufficient, built only on three sides, and left open to the fourth, or inclosed only with a proper colonnade, which would be more light and cheerful, and perhaps



perhaps more magnificent, by showing at once the full extent of the building.

TILL these and several other points be ascertained, it must be impossible to calculate exactly the necessary expence of rebuilding the College. But, from considering, in general, the extent of accommodation required, some calculations have been formed, on the principle of the ordinary expence of building in this City; and it is estimated, that such a College as is needed, may be erected for 40,000l., but not for a smaller sum.

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THE other great object of the attention and wishes of many of the principal and most public-spirited inhabitants of Edinburgh, namely, the building of a proper Prison and Bridewell, though a much less splendid and pleasing object than the rebuilding of the College, is more interesting to the feelings of humanity, more immediately requisite for the good order of society, and consequently, not only an affair of more general concern, but plainly a matter of National importance.

THE horrid state of the Prison of Edinburgh, the smallness, the bad situation, the bad contrivance of it, with the inevitable consequences of these inconveniences, are generally known, and have been long and justly complained of; although the Public is not acquainted with the full extent of them. But even the most thoughtless and unfeeling are shocked, when they chance to learn, that, in consequence of these circumstances, miseries un-  
authorized

authorized by law, unknown to the world, inconsistent with sound policy, with justice, and with humanity, are the portion of the prisoners of every kind: for all who are confined in such a prison, whether their crimes or their misfortunes have brought them thither, must feel them nearly alike; as they are kept almost promiscuously, which is, of itself, one of the cruellest hardships; and as all of them are in a great measure deprived of the benefit of good air, which may justly be reckoned the first and most immediate necessary of life, and of which none, not even the vilest of criminals, while they are suffered to live, ought to be deprived. But these evils can be but very imperfectly alleviated, even by the most humane attention of the Magistrates, and the utmost care of those who have the charge of the prisoners, while these are kept in such a jail as the present one; and it is evident, that they cannot be remedied, till a new Prison, of a very different construction from the old, is erected.

THE want of a proper Bridewell has been almost as much felt and complained of, as the wretched state of the Prison. Indeed, there needed not such experience as we have had, to make us feel, when the slightest reflection would have been sufficient to convince us, how necessary it must be, in a city like Edinburgh, to have a proper place, where the idle and dissolute, who have no means of subsistence, and are become not only useless but dangerous members of society, may be restrained and punished, and, if possible, reclaimed, by being taught by force the habits of needful industry, and by being made to feel the consequences of vice and idleness.

SUCH



SUCH reflections as these have often occurred to the Citizens, and especially to those among them, who, by their office of Magistrates, had ample opportunities of knowing particularly many deplorable circumstances relating to the situation of prisoners in Edinburgh jail, and to the morals and conduct of the lower orders of the people; which circumstances were not known, nor even suspected, by the Public at large.

ABOUT three years ago, a very judicious and truly patriotic address to the Citizens, with the heads of a plan for erecting a new Prison and Bridewell, was published by those active Magistrates, David Steuart, Esq; at that time Lord Provost of the City, and Archibald Cockburn, Esq; Sheriff-depute of the County of Edinburgh.

IT would be injustice to these Gentlemen, as well as to the public cause which they have asserted so ably, to give their observations and arguments in any words but their own.

THE following paragraphs are extracts from their pamphlet: but neither these extracts, nor a complete transcript of that pamphlet, can supersede the necessity of referring to it, for the sake of the distinct Plans, Elevations, and Sections, that it exhibits, of the buildings which it was proposed to erect, for the purposes of a Prison and Bridewell; which Plans give at once a more distinct notion of what is required and intended, and of the rational and benevolent purposes of those gentlemen, than it is possible for words to convey.

“ To suppress idleness, and to prevent crimes, are the great  
 “ objects to which every Magistrate should bend his attention.  
 “ It would have been fortunate for this country, and those to  
 “ whom the protection of its peace is officially entrusted, had  
 “ they been enabled, by having proper places of confinement,  
 “ to adopt such measures, for the correction of morals and the  
 “ encouragement of industry, as the present state of society, and  
 “ the progress of universal dissipation, render peculiarly neces-  
 “ sary.

“ THE prevention of vice is, no doubt, of much greater  
 “ national importance, than the punishment of offences after  
 “ they are committed: but when it is considered, that there is  
 “ little more in the power of the Civil Magistrate than to inflict  
 “ such punishment, or to confine in places which seem calculated  
 “ for the utter extinction of every virtuous principle, it cannot  
 “ be wondered, if a Bridewell and a new Prison, upon a right  
 “ footing, is anxiously wished for by those whom the country  
 “ looks upon as answerable to it, and to whose supposed mis-  
 “ conduct or neglect, every violation of the law is in the first  
 “ instance commonly imputed.

“ THE present House of Correction is the only institution in  
 “ Edinburgh that bears any resemblance to a Bridewell. Ill  
 “ chosen and inconvenient in point of situation, the fabric is  
 “ much too small, and the apartments are by no means calculat-  
 “ ed for the necessary separation of prisoners, or the due enforce-  
 “ ment of industry and obedience. Indeed, the only use it is  
 “ put



“ put to, or fit for, is the temporary confinement of such  
 “ wretched beings as are, from their occupation, become total-  
 “ ly abandoned, and join the commission of theft to the misery  
 “ of prostitution.

“ THE Charity Workhouse is intended solely for the recep-  
 “ tion and maintenance of persons that are too young, too in-  
 “ firm, or too old, to support themselves by bodily labour. The  
 “ able and robust of both sexes, whose dispositions or habits ren-  
 “ der them averse to any settled employment, are left at liberty  
 “ to throw away their time in idleness and dissipation.

“ THE poverty of some parents, but the profligacy of by far  
 “ the greater number, renders them quite careless of the morals  
 “ and education of their offspring. Nay, many of them are so  
 “ completely abandoned, that they encourage vicious habits and  
 “ inclinations in their children, in place of checking them; and  
 “ even trust, in a great measure, for their own subsistence, to the  
 “ profits arising from their crimes.

“ THE number of young people that are to be met with in  
 “ the streets, deserted by their parents, and left entirely to their  
 “ own shifts, is astonishing. Many of them have already been  
 “ guilty of crimes for which, had it not been on account of their  
 “ youth, they would have been condemned to suffer an ignomi-  
 “ nious death.—Indeed, if things continue in their present situ-  
 “ ation, they must be allowed to proceed in their crimes, until  
 “ they

“ they arrive at an age when it will be less shocking to the feelings of humanity to deprive them of their lives.

“ A SON of one of the six persons who last winter were all at one time under sentence of death, received from his own father a regular education fitted to qualify him for the gallows. This boy was only fourteen years of age when his father suffered; but even then he himself was head of a gang; was in custody for theft the day his father was executed; and in less than three months after, he and his associates, who were all of them younger than himself, had committed several capital crimes; for one of which, he was served with an indictment; but, on account of his youth, the Court of Justiciary consented to his banishment.

“ OF all the jails that Mr. Howard ever surveyed, there is not perhaps one more opposite to what a jail ought to be, than that of the city of Edinburgh.—Situating in the middle of a large metropolis, and in a narrow street—surrounded on every side by buildings much higher than itself—the miserable apartments it contains—the improper manner in which they are disposed and subdivided—the shocking places appropriated for the confinement of felons—the numberless inconveniences arising from a partial and imperfect supply of water—the unwholesome and fetid atmosphere that pervades almost every part of it, from the total exclusion of a circulation of fresh air—the absolute impossibility to preserve a proper separation of prisoners—the calamitous case of honest, though unfortunate debtors,



“ debtors, confined to this dreary habitation, where they are ex-  
 “ posed to the intercourse of wretches habituated to every species  
 “ of vice, and dead to every sense of virtue, are circumstances,  
 “ it is presumed, abundantly sufficient to show the necessity of  
 “ the establishment now about to be attempted.

“ THE present building contains only fourteen apartments.—  
 “ During the last seven years, there have been confined in it  
 “ 1126 debtors, and 769 criminals, which, on a medium for that  
 “ period, amounts each year to the number of 160 of the for-  
 “ mer, and 109 of the latter. By the report of prisoners, it ap-  
 “ pears, that, in the month of June 1781, there were 19 prison-  
 “ ers for debt, and 12 for crimes; but the fact is, that the re-  
 “ cords of the jail have not been accurately kept, and that many  
 “ commitments were never entered in the books, or the war-  
 “ rants for them have been lost. It ought likewise to be observ-  
 “ ed, that, during the term of years for which the preceding  
 “ calculation was made, the nation has been at war, and the  
 “ country much drained of men. Crimes are more frequent,  
 “ and prisoners more numerous, in time of peace; so that,  
 “ without exceeding the limits of moderation, there ought to be  
 “ added one fifth to the number of debtors, and one third to  
 “ that of criminals.

“ THIS state of the case will, it is supposed, satisfy every  
 “ one, that the jail is, on its present footing, altogether inade-  
 “ quate to the salutary purposes which ought to result from such  
 “ an establishment.

" THE safe custody of prisoners is not the only object to be  
 " regarded in the disposition of a jail. At the same time, it is a  
 " certain truth, that the conduct of jailors, and the treatment of  
 " prisoners, in most cases, favour so much of oppression and  
 " cruelty, that it seems a matter of trifling consideration to the  
 " former what may be the sufferings of the latter, provided the  
 " escape of their persons is effectually prevented. The injudici-  
 " ous construction, and great insufficiency of prisons, are the  
 " grounds on which these abuses are justified.—The want of  
 " proper places of confinement for unruly and dangerous crimi-  
 " nals, furnishes a pretence to keepers for treating every one un-  
 " der their charge with the same undistinguishing severity. Na-  
 " turally averse, from their indolence, and, for the most part,  
 " from their emoluments, unable to be at more pains than is ab-  
 " solutely necessary, they adopt such modes of security as seem  
 " best calculated to keep themselves free from apprehension or  
 " alarm.

" HENCE it is, that persons committed on informations, the  
 " subject of which may be made capital, are commonly con-  
 " signed to a dungeon, and loaded with irons. Hence the in-  
 " vention of the Cage, and other methods, which, though to  
 " the keepers they may appear necessary, are all equally repug-  
 " nant to the law of the land, and to the feelings of humanity.

" No principle of justice is more incontestable, than that eve-  
 " ry person accused of a crime has, previous to his trial, a right  
 " to be treated as if he were innocent. A jail is nothing more  
 " than



" than a temporary habitation, where the prisoner is to be con-  
 " fined, in the first instance, till his guilt or innocence shall be  
 " legally investigated; and, during that confinement, he ought  
 " to be denied no comfort that can be afforded him, consistent  
 " with good morals, decency, and the detention of his person.  
 " In this country, however, the situation of the accused is singu-  
 " larly unfortunate.

" THE utter impossibility of a proper separation of prisoners  
 " in the present jail, has been attended with the most pernicious  
 " effects. A gallery, that goes by the name of the Common  
 " Hall, is the only place where it can be said there is the small-  
 " est circulation of air; and to this all the prisoners are occa-  
 " sionally admitted, women, and such as are detained for capi-  
 " tal crimes, only excepted.

" IT may be called the Coffeehouse of the jail, to which all  
 " resort; and, indeed, there is a necessity of their resorting to it,  
 " as here alone they can enjoy refreshment or recreation of any  
 " kind. It requires no great penetration to discover, that such  
 " an intercourse must tend to extinguish every principle of mo-  
 " rality, and all sense of character.

" To young offenders, in particular, confined for trifling mis-  
 " demeanours, and to all such as are in custody for actions that  
 " betray no corruption of mind, it is absolute perdition. Many  
 " instances, sufficiently authenticated, might be produced, of  
 " young persons committed on informations for petty thefts, of  
 " which

“ which it was, after investigation, discovered they were not guilty; and of people accused of an assault, or a riot, in which they had no hand, who, after some weeks confinement in this hopeful academy, have, on their enlargement, returned to their friends and the community, accomplished in the science of house-breaking, and every species of theft.

“ THE duty of a Public Magistrate becomes not a little disagreeable on occasions, where he is reduced to the alternative of allowing complaints for inferior offences to pass unnoticed, or of sending the accused to a place, which, if they entered innocent, or but a little tainted, they are certain of leaving with dispositions much worse, if not completely wicked.

“ THE condition of those who, on account of their sex or their crime, are excluded from the benefit of the Common-hall, and strictly confined to their different apartments, is peculiarly deplorable. Deprived of the benefit of breathing fresh air, they exist in places, which, from their situation in point of closeness, from the circumstance of their being almost constantly occupied, and from the great inconveniences attending the want of a sufficient supply of water, must, in all cases, be extremely uncomfortable. But what adds greatly to the evil is, that a well-disposed person has it not in his power to employ his time or thoughts as he would incline. The jailor is under the necessity of placing others, however worthless, along with him; and the security of the prison requires, that as few unruly persons as possible should be trusted together in one apartment.



" ment. There must always be associated a certain proportion  
 " of good and bad, not from choice, but because the number of  
 " rooms, and the general accommodation, render any other dis-  
 " position impossible.

" FROM so indiscriminate a mixture of prisoners, the great-  
 " est inconveniences arise to judicial procedure. A proper sepa-  
 " ration between those that are confined for the purpose of be-  
 " coming evidences, and those that are to be tried, has never been  
 " duly preserved; and, on a very late occasion of a capital trial,  
 " in which our national character was nearly concerned, the  
 " greatest embarrassment had like to have arisen from the defect  
 " now mentioned.

" As to the case of persons confined for debt, it is in every  
 " respect inconsistent with justice or humanity. There are, in  
 " this jail, only three apartments allotted for women, whether  
 " debtors or criminals. On a late survey, a female debtor was  
 " found in the same room, and in the same bed, with a prosti-  
 " tute; and, on enquiring into the reason of so gross an abuse,  
 " it was discovered, that if she had been put into any other of  
 " the women's apartments, her morals would have been in equal  
 " danger, and her person in much greater.

" IT is certain, that disasters, which the greatest prudence  
 " could not have prevented, or the warmth of an ill-placed  
 " confidence and friendship, often bring imprisonment and in-  
 " solvency upon men who were formerly of independent fortune

“ and unblemished character; but is it not a pitiable case, and  
 “ worthy of a speedy remedy, that persons of this description  
 “ should be reduced to the necessity of mixing with profligates,  
 “ to whom the horrors of a jail are become familiar, and who  
 “ have outlived all regard for their own character, or the good  
 “ opinion of the world?

“ To suffer the loss of personal liberty, is surely a sufficient  
 “ calamity, especially when it happens from unavoidable misfor-  
 “ tune, or the fault of others, without being forced at the same  
 “ time into situations, and exposed to scenes, equally shocking  
 “ in themselves, and dangerous to virtue.

“ HAVING dwelt so long on the many inconveniences and  
 “ mischiefs inseparable from the present jail, it is now full time  
 “ we should explain in what manner it is intended to remedy  
 “ them.

“ IN the first place, it is proposed, that the Jail and Work-  
 “ house, or Bridewell, should be united, and laid out in divi-  
 “ sions, in such a manner as to afford one for the reception of  
 “ felons, with a suitable area and court belonging to it; another  
 “ for young offenders; with a court and area; a third for debtors,  
 “ with the same conveniences; and lastly, a Bridewell, consist-  
 “ ing of separate accommodations for men and women, with  
 “ proper courts and areas: And, that there may be no commu-  
 “ nication between the refractory and incorrigible, and such as  
 “ are



“ are less hardened, distinct places of abode are to be prepared  
“ for each.

“ To accomplish these purposes, it will require a piece of  
“ ground not less than three acres, which must be separated by  
“ division-walls, so as effectually to prevent all intercourse be-  
“ tween the different classes of people under confinement.

“ THE Bridewell, of which a plan was formerly offered to  
“ the Public, was intended only for the City of Edinburgh; but  
“ the certain consequence of this restriction would have been,  
“ that the idlers of every denomination would have instantly  
“ withdrawn themselves from the jurisdiction of the Magistrates  
“ of that City. Nor is it to be doubted, that, on the establish-  
“ ment of a proper Workhouse for the City and Shire together,  
“ multitudes, in order to avoid labour and confinement, will fly  
“ for shelter to the neighbouring counties; in which case, the  
“ shires of East and West Lothian, and of Fife, in the first place,  
“ would be over-run with vagrants and vagabonds of all sorts,  
“ who, by degrees, would find their way into the most remote  
“ corners of this kingdom.

“ To prevent this evil, and, if possible, compel numbers that  
“ are now idle, to become, in some measure, industrious and  
“ useful citizens, the adjacent Shires should consider very seri-  
“ ously, whether it would not be their interest to lend their  
“ assistance towards putting the proposed establishment on such a  
“ footing, that the advantages accruing from it might be com-  
“ municated

“ municated to them, as well as to the City and Shire of Edin-  
 “ burgh.

“ ON the supposition that they will see their interest in ac-  
 “ ceding to such a proposal, the plan of the intended establish-  
 “ ment has purposely been made of such an extent, as to afford  
 “ sufficient room and accommodation for any number of people  
 “ that, in all probability, can be sent from the surrounding  
 “ counties.

“ IN order to complete this scheme, it will be necessary to  
 “ have an act of Parliament, empowering the Sheriffs, Justices of  
 “ Peace, and Magistrates of Boroughs, in such counties as shall  
 “ join, to grant warrants for conveying persons beyond their  
 “ own territories, and for lodging them in the Bridewell at  
 “ Edinburgh.

“ As it does not appear that such an act of Parliament would  
 “ be productive of any bad consequences in other respects, and  
 “ as it is intended solely for the purpose above-mentioned, there  
 “ is little doubt but it would be easily procured.

“ THERE is a circumstance that had almost escaped attention,  
 “ which at once shows the feebleness of the civil power, on some  
 “ occasions, to execute its own purposes, and the useful impres-  
 “ sion that must reach the minds of the populace from the esta-  
 “ blishment now proposed.—From the situation of the present  
 “ jail, it has hitherto been found insecure, and dangerous, to  
 “ imprison



“ imprison in it persons concerned in riots or insurrections, such  
 “ as happened not long ago. They have been always confined  
 “ in the Castle, in consequence of a recommendation from the  
 “ Sheriff or the Magistrates ; but there will not be any necessity  
 “ for a proceeding so disagreeable and improper, if the wished-  
 “ for countenance and support is given to this undertaking.

“ IN so extensive an undertaking, it is impossible that every  
 “ point can be settled and adjusted prior to its commencement ;  
 “ therefore, much must be left to the prudence and abilities of  
 “ the people that are to be entrusted with its direction.—In some  
 “ particulars, however, there can be no difficulty ; such, for ex-  
 “ ample, as laying it down for a preliminary regulation, that the  
 “ servants employed, from the highest to the lowest, shall have  
 “ fixed salaries ; that it shall not be in their power to reap the  
 “ smallest profit or advantage from the furnishing to the prison-  
 “ ers, or the general consumption of the Bridewell or jails.—A  
 “ sutlery, in a prison, is the source of every irregularity and dis-  
 “ order within it.—Every necessary article ought to be contracted  
 “ for at a stipulated rate, and distributed in stated quantities,  
 “ under the immediate inspection of a person appointed for that  
 “ purpose ; and a day-book should be kept by him of all the  
 “ provisions delivered, with an account of their disposal, which  
 “ will serve as a check both upon his own conduct and that of  
 “ the contractor.

“ THE different apartments, with their areas, must be swept  
 “ and cleaned every day, and washed, and overflowed with wa-

“ter at least twice a week.—This, and many other services of  
 “the same sort, can easily be performed by the prisoners, of both  
 “sexes, confined in Bridewell. They are in custody for the  
 “purpose of working; and surely they cannot be better em-  
 “ployed.

“A CONSTANT subjection to severe bodily labour, is an idea  
 “justly reprobated by the greatest part of mankind. On the  
 “other hand, it must be admitted, that no member of society,  
 “destitute of the means of supporting himself, has a right to  
 “remain in idleness. It is a maxim in China, that, if a person  
 “does not work, some individual in the empire must suffer cold  
 “and hunger on that account; for, though he may ward off  
 “want from himself, it must fall somewhere. The idle ought  
 “to be confined, for the prevention of mischief to the communi-  
 “ty, with such an allowance as is sufficient to keep soul and  
 “body together. If they are disposed to become industrious,  
 “they will be furnished with work, two thirds of the profits of  
 “which they will be permitted to draw; so that the busier they  
 “are, they will live the better; and their diligence and comfort  
 “will go hand in hand.

“It is with pleasure that we acknowledge how much we  
 “have been indebted, on the present occasion, to the State of  
 “Prisons, lately published by John Howard, Esq; whose name  
 “will be revered to the latest posterity, for his generous and un-  
 “wearied exertions to alleviate the miseries, and promote the  
 “welfare of so great a part of mankind.

“FROM



" FROM the descriptions given, and the plan annexed, it  
 " cannot be expected, that the expence of an undertaking of this  
 " magnitude can be supported either by the City's funds singly,  
 " or by any assistance that may eventually be derived from the  
 " Shire. It will, therefore, be absolutely necessary to solicit a  
 " general and voluntary contribution, for the purpose of pro-  
 " moting an establishment, the influence and good effects of  
 " which will soon extend itself over the whole country. Edin-  
 " burgh being the place where all the Supreme Courts meet for  
 " the despatch of business, its jail ought not to be regarded as a  
 " local and partial accommodation merely, but as a reception for  
 " prisoners of the nation at large. One half of the people con-  
 " fined in it, throughout the year, are brought from other  
 " places, with a view to judicial procedure before the Courts of  
 " Session, Justiciary, and Exchequer. Multitudes of poor people  
 " from all quarters of this kingdom bring their families to the  
 " metropolis, in hopes of bettering their condition. Their ex-  
 " pectations are as often disappointed as they are answered. But  
 " it seldom happens that such new-comers ever leave the place.  
 " They loiter on till they are reduced to beggary and wretched-  
 " ness, and become fit inhabitants of Bridewell, where employ-  
 " ment must be assigned them, since they cannot, or will not,  
 " find it for themselves."

THOUGH the truth of the observations, the justness of the  
 reasonings, and the expediency, or rather the urgent necessity of  
 the things proposed, in the pamphlet published by those active  
 Magistrates, have been universally felt and acknowledged, no  
 progress

progress has yet been made towards carrying into execution their excellent plan. Nor will this appear wonderful, when it is considered, that, to execute it, would require no less a sum than 10,000l.; which, though a small matter when so great a national object is in view, is yet much greater than can be obtained in this country by any other means than by a grant from Parliament; as those gentlemen have experienced, who, when they first proposed this plan to the Public, flattered themselves with the hopes, that an object of such general and acknowledged importance, not merely to this city and county, but to the country at large, might be attained without the necessity of applying to Government.

OBJECTS of such magnitude, and at the same time of such evident public utility as these, cannot be thought unworthy of the attention, nor will they, it is hoped, be deemed undeserving of the encouragement and assistance of Government; as it is manifest that they can never otherwise be accomplished.

WE earnestly wish it were submitted to the consideration of our Rulers, whether the sum of 50,000l., which will be needed for these two great objects, might not be raised by the profits of a Lottery.—There seem to be two ways in which this may be done: The one, by allotting for these purposes one third part of the profits of next year's State Lottery, which may be estimated at 50,000l.: the other, by allowing, for three years successively, a Lottery of a guinea the ticket, collateral to the State Lottery, so as to be determined by the drawing of it; as has been repeatedly



ly practised with respect to the Irish Guinea Lotteries. The annual profits of these lotteries, it is thought, may amount to about 16,000*l.* or 17,000*l.*, which, in three years, will produce the required sum of 50,000*l.*—Of these two ways, the former seems greatly preferable; not only as the more certain, but as the more speedy method of accomplishing the end in view; which, in the present case, is of peculiar consequence. But this point, we know, must in some measure be determined according to the exigencies of the State; and we submit our humble requests and suggestions to the wisdom of those who are entrusted with the care of Public Affairs.

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If these two great objects are attained by the assistance of Government, another object, of no small importance towards completing and adorning our City, will then be put within the reach of the Citizens themselves, if they retain the same liberal public spirit, and the same zeal for the improvement of their City which they have shown of late. If a new Prison is erected in a proper place, the old one must of course be removed; and this is to remove more than a third part of that cumbersome mass of buildings the Luckenbooths, which disgraces this city, and spoils one of the noblest streets in Europe. The removal of this nuisance has long been wished for, and often talked of; but till a new Prison is obtained, it must be in vain to attempt it. A new Prison being obtained, the Luckenbooths may easily be removed, and this with very little expence to the Citizens; nay, almost with

none : for if they consider the tax of 10 *per cent.* on valued rent for one year, permitted by themselves, and appointed by Parliament to be levied on them if it should be needed for completing the South Bridge, as already allotted for that purpose, or for the general improvement of the City, nothing more will be required, both for completing the South Bridge, and removing the Luckenbooths : For the Trustees are now confident, that the Bridge will almost pay itself, and that very little or none of the tax authorised by Parliament will be needed on account of it. If the inhabitants will consent that this tax be levied, two very great objects towards improving the City, instead of one, will thereby be accomplished. It is scarce to be supposed, that the inhabitants of Edinburgh, who would cheerfully have paid that tax for one year, in order to obtain the South Bridge, will not pay it for the same time, with equal cheerfulness, to accomplish both the building of the South Bridge, and the removal of such a deformity and such a nuisance as the Luckenbooths. So small a pittance as is required of each inhabitant, and that so fairly proportioned to each person's means, can never be felt as a hardship. Most of the inhabitants of Edinburgh, it is certain, would gladly contribute their share of it, merely for the pleasure of seeing the improvement and embellishment of their City. The High Street, from its great length and breadth, from its peculiar position on the ridge of a hill, and even from the rude grandeur of the lofty piles of houses on each side of it, already one of the noblest in Europe, if it were increased by the addition of the whole length of the Luckenbooths, and of the Lawn Market, and of the Castle-hill,



hill, (for the Weigh-house must be removed of course), would undoubtedly be the grandest in the world. And this grand Street, of a mile in length, and with an easy ascent, would terminate on one of the most striking objects that either Art or Nature can produce, a great antient fortress, built on a huge rock, overlooking the whole city, the adjacent country, and the sea. This noble object would immediately come into sight, and, in process of time, would no doubt be brought into full view, by taking care, as the old houses on the Castlehill fall to decay, to have such of them as are at present a little out of the line of the High Street, rebuilt on a proper plan, so as to form one line with the Lawn Market, the High Street, and the upper and greater part of the Canongate.

OTHER considerations, too, would probably occur to some of the inhabitants, if they begun to consider this subject, which might make it appear a matter of real interest to themselves, as well as of pleasure and credit to the Public.

THE Luckenbooths consist chiefly of shops; and from the nature of the building, can never be made any other use of. The removal of more than forty shops from the very centre of the city, must add greatly to the value of all other shops in that neighbourhood, and indeed of all shops built or to be built, in any part of the City. And it is well known, how large a proportion of the property of the Citizens of Edinburgh consists in shops.

THE

THE inhabitants of the Lawn Market cannot fail to know, that they have a still greater and more immediate interest in the removal of the Luckenbooths. The Lawn Market is at present so little frequented in comparison of the High Street, as scarce to appear a part of the same town, much less of the same street: and the inhabitants of it must see how much it would be for their advantage that it were fairly made a part of the High Street, undistinguishable from the rest, rather than that it should be connected with the High Street and the rest of the City only by three narrow thoroughfares, two of which are passable only by people on foot. And neither they, nor the inhabitants of Edinburgh at large, can enjoy the full advantages of the new communication from the Lawn Market to the Middle of Prince's Street, while the Luckenbooths are suffered to remain. Even the removal of so disagreeable an object as the old Prison, especially now that executions are done at it, must be highly acceptable to such as dwell in the Lawn Market, and a matter of interest to all who have property there.

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SUCH, Sir, are the objects, plainly of no private, but great public advantage, which many of your fellow-citizens have much at heart; and in the furthering of which, they look for your assistance.

THEY humbly conceive, and they wish, that You would represent in the proper place, that, on such occasions, and for such purposes,



purposes, their City has a peculiar claim to public encouragement and assistance.

SCOTLAND was once a Kingdom, and Edinburgh was then in every respect a Capital. These flattering distinctions, and, to our City at least, important advantages, were long ago renounced, for the general good of the British empire. Nor do we repine at this sacrifice which our ancestors made. But we know that Scotland acquired, by that very Treaty of Union with England, by which it ceased to be a separate and independent Kingdom, an equal right with England, to the attention and favour of the British Legislature. And, though Edinburgh has for ever lost most of those advantages which belong to the residence of a Court, and the seat of Government, and which never fail quickly to enrich and to aggrandize a Capital, we hope our City has not forfeited every claim to the attention and favour of our Rulers, by those circumstances, which, in the strictest equity, ought rather to have given it an additional claim.

WHEN such public works are found necessary in London, they are executed by means of very liberal supplies granted by Parliament from the public stock; and none are found to complain or murmur.

WHEN such works are undertaken at Dublin, the expence of them is defrayed by the profits of lotteries allowed by the Irish Parliament; and the burden is not felt by the people.

EXCEPT the single article of the Register-Office, nothing of this kind has been granted, nor indeed asked, for Edinburgh, since the Union, which is now near fourscore years.

LET it be remembered, that when, by the Union, the seat of our National Government was removed from Edinburgh, it lost what alone had made it a great city: that, from its situation, and various other circumstances, it can never be the seat of manufactures, nor of general commerce, nor consequently of such wealth as these alone can bestow; but that it is still the seat of the General Assembly of our National Church, and of the Annual Convention of our Royal Boroughs, and of the several Boards for managing the different branches of the Public Revenue. Or, if these faint shadows of its former dignity be not thought deserving of attention, let it be considered, that it is still the seat of Law, and the seat of Learning; that it is the place of education the most esteemed in Scotland, and one of the most esteemed in the world; and that it is the favourite residence of most of our countrymen, who, by their station, their education, their sentiments, and their manners, are qualified to form an elegant and rational society, and to enjoy the sweets of it.

You, Sir, cannot think the improvement of such a City, in these important articles which are at present in contemplation, either a trivial object, or one unworthy of your concern: and, as there can be no suspicion either of private interest, or of party views,



views, in the things proposed, if You can assist us, in procuring from Government that aid, without which they can never be accomplished, You will have an opportunity, such as You must not expect to meet with often in your political life, of doing an important public service, without incurring either reproach or envy; and of making, or of obliging, many private friends, without creating yourself a single enemy.

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